

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 294986

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EWWT, CA

SUBJECT: ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY CONSULTATIONS

1. FOLLOWING PRESS STATEMENT ON SUBJECT CONSULTATIONS WILL
BE RELEASED BY DEPARTMENT AT 12:30 PM DECEMBER 3.

2. BEGIN TEXT: REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CANADIAN AND US
GOVERNMENTS MET IN WASHINGTON AT CANADIAN INITIATIVE
DECEMBER 2 TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO THE ST. LAWRENCE
SEAWAY. THE CANADIAN SIDE PROPOSED A MODIFICATION OF THE
EXISTING ARRANGEMENT ON ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY TOLLS WHICH
WOULD ALLOW CANADA TO ASSESS TOLLS ON THE WELLAND CANAL AT
A LEVEL WHICH WOULD RECOVER REASONABLE COSTS. IT IS EN-
VISAGED THAT THIS WOULD INVOLVE A TOLL ON THE WELLAND
ROUGHLY EQUAL TO THAT CURRENTLY ASSESSED ON THE ST.
LAWRENCE RIVER SECTION OF THE SEAWAY. CANADA ALSO RE-
QUESTED THAT A PROCEDURE BE INITIATED UNDER WHICH TOLLS ON
ST. LAWRENCE RIVER SECTION OF THE SEAWAY WOULD BE REVIEWED
ANNUALLY.

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THE CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE WASHINGTON MEETING WAS HEADED BY PETER TOWE, ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND PAUL NORMANDEAU, PRESIDENT OF THE

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY AUTHORITY. THE US SIDE WAS LED BY JULIUS L. KATZ, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS AFFAIRS, AND DAVID W. OBERLIN, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

THE CANADIAN TEAM DISCUSSED THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE CANADIAN SEAWAY AUTHORITY AND OUTLINED THEIR PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE PRESENT TOLL AGREEMENT. THE PRESENT TOLL AGREEMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE 1959, INCLUDES BOTH THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER SECTION BETWEEN MONTREAL AND LAKE ONTARIO AND THE WELLAND CANAL BETWEEN LAKE ONTARIO AND LAKE ERIE. PRESENTLY THERE ARE NO TOLLS ON THE WELLAND CANAL ALTHOUGH A LOCKAGE CHARGE IS ASSESSED. TOLLS ON THE ST. LAWRENCE RIVER SECTION OF THE SEAWAY HAVE REMAINED AT THE SAME LEVEL SINCE THAT INTERNATIONAL FACILITY OPENED IN 1959. THEY ARE ASSESSED UNDER A JOINT TARIFF OF TOLLS AND THE RESULTING REVENUES ARE DIVIDED BETWEEN THE TWO SEAWAY ENTITIES ACCORDING TO A NEGOTIATED FORMULA.

IT WAS AGREED THAT THE CONSULTATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN INITIATED WOULD BE ACTIVELY PURSUED. END TEXT. KISSINGER

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